IN THE CLAIMS:

71 (fourth amended). The protein of claim 77, wherein said protein is a naturally occurring mutant E5-1 protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:138 but having at least one amino acid substitution therein.

Please delete pending claims 78 and 79.

Please add the following new claims:

80. A substantially pure E5-1 protein, which is a splice variant of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:138, or a naturally occurring mutant thereof.

81. The protein of claim 80, wherein said splice variant lacks amino acids 263-296 of SEQ ID NO:138.

82. The protein of claim 80, wherein said splice variant is encoded by a polynucleotide defined by SEQ ID NO:137, said polynucleotide lacking the triplet GAA codon at nucleotide positions 1338-1340.

83. A substantially pure mammalian E5-1 protein, encoded by the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:137, or a naturally occurring mutant thereof.

84. The protein of claim 83, which is a naturally occurring mutant E5-1 protein encoded by the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:137 but having at least one mutation therein.

85. The protein of claim 84, wherein said naturally occurring mutant E5-1 protein encoded by the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:137 contains an A→T substitution at position 787 and/or an A→G substitution at position 1080 of said SEQ ID NO:137.